

Exploring the Estate Lesson Plan: Ideas

Objectives:

1. Students will learn the definition and criteria for good ideas.
2. They will engage in a center-based pre-writing activity that allows them to brainstorm a variety of ideas before selecting a single one to write about.

Materials:

Definition of Ideas

Criterion-specific Rubric for Assessing Ideas

Exploring the Estate Posters

Procedure:

1. Activating Background Knowledge
Display photos of a Wii, an iPod, a pizza, a bicycle, and an ice cream sundae (or others)
Alternatively, you can play an engaging video or music clip
Ask: what makes any one of these things a good idea?
2. Input/Direct Instruction
Define ideas and review rubric to establish an understanding of what good ideas are in writing.
3. Modeling With Mentor Text
Share an example—such as *The Paper Bag Princess* or *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*
Explain that good ideas happen when we take our time brainstorming. There are many ways to brainstorm. What brainstorming strategies are they familiar with? Share your own.
4. Guided Practice
Explain how people are sort of like “estates” unto themselves, and when we explore our estates, we learn more about ourselves. This is where good ideas live. Place one estate poster in each station and allow students to move through them, considering the questions presented and jotting down ideas as they go.